

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJ: RAND DAILY MAIL HEADLINES STORY BY CORRESPONDENT IN  
GENEVA ON BRITISH TUC PLAN TO ASSIST BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN  
TRADE UNIONS.

1. MAIL'S FRONT PAGE HEADLINE JUNE 5 OVER JOHN IMRIE  
BYLINE ANNOUNCES "WORLD UNIONS BACK PLAN TO AID BLACKS".  
STORY READS AS FOLLOWS:

QTE THE BRITISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS APPEARS TO HAVE  
SWUNG ALMOST THE ENTIRE WESTERN EUROPEAN TRADE UNION  
MOVEMENT BEHIND ITS PLAN TO HELP SOUTH AFRICA'S BLACK  
WORKERS.

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QTE IN EFFECT THE PLAN HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY THE INTER-

NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS WHICH IS SETTING UP A SPECIAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

QTE THE COMMITTEE WILL BE STAFFED FROM THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS OF NEARLY ALL THE MAJOR WESTERN INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THE POWERFUL INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION SECRETARIATS, SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS' FEDERATION.

QTE THE MAIN AIM OF THE TUC PLAN IS TO BUILD UP BLACK TRADE UNIONS.

QTE THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE ICFTU MAY BE BAD NEWS FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT SINCE THE ORGANISATION, WHICH HAS LABOUR MOVEMENTS FROM 14 BLACK AFRICAN STATES AFFILIATED TO IT, IS FAR MORE MILITANTLY ANTI-APARTHEID THAN THE BRITISH TUC.

QTE THERE IS ALSO A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ICFTU AND THE TUC OVER THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE MULTI-RACIAL TRADE UNION COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA.

QTE THE BRITISH TUC LEADERS ARE SYMPATHETIC TOWARDS TUCSA AND BELIEVE IN COOPERATING WITH IT, BUT THE STOCKY, CROP-HEADED GENERAL SECRETARY OF ICFTU, MR OTTO KERSTEN, TOLD ME YESTERDAY HE WANTED NO CONTACT WITH TUCSA WHICH HE BELIEVED HAD TOO MANY CONSERVATIVES IN IT.

QTE "WE MIGHT, HOWEVER, WORK WITH SOME OF THE PROGRESSIVE ELEMENTS OF TUCSA." HE SAID.

QTE ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT USED ITS NEW LAW TO PREVENT FUNDS ENTERING THE COUNTRY TO BUILD UP AN AFRICAN LABOUR MOVEMENT, HE SAID THERE WOULD BE A "SERIOUS" REACTION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MOVEMENT.

QTE WHETHER THE ICFTU, WHICH IS CLEARLY PERSUADED BY CONSIDERATIONS OF ITS AFRICAN MEMBERSHIP, CAN CONTINUE TO PURSUE ITS HOSTILE CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND STILL EXPECT TO BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALLOWED TO RENDER ASSISTANCE TO BLACKS IN THE REPUBLIC REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

QTE THE INFLUENCE OF THE BRITISH TUC AND CERTAIN OTHER BODIES ON THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE WHICH IS TO BE SET UP SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE UNDER-RATED, I AM TOLD.

QTE SEEN IN PERSPECTIVE, IT SEEMS THAT IN ORDER TO BROADEN

SUPPORT FOR ITS PLAN TO HELP SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS THE TUC WAS OBVIOUSLY OBLIGED TO INVOLVE THE ICFTU WHICH REPRESENTS MOST OF THE FREE WORLD TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS.

QTE BY GOING ALONG WITH THE TUC, THE OTHER WESTERN TRADE UNIONS ARE COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO CONSTRUCTIVE ASSISTANCE TO BLACKS IN THE REPUBLIC RATHER THAN BOYCOTT ACTION.

QTE SO WHILE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT MAY NOT LIKE THE BRUSSELS-BASED ICFTU, THE BRUSSELS CONNECTION MIGHT BE A SMALL PRICE TO PAY TO STAVE OFF CALLS FOR CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION ACTION AGAINST THE REPUBLIC, WHICH COULD HAVE MORE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES THAN ANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTION TAKEN SO FAR OR CONTEMPLATED. UNQTE.

2. COMMENT: IMRIE UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE THAT ICFTU AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED DOES NOT RATE IN IMPORTANCE WITH TUC OR IT'S AS FACTOR IN LATTERS' PLANS TO ASSIST BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS. HIS PROBABLE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR EQUATING LEFT-LEANING ICFTU WITH LATTER IN HIS STORY WAS TO SUGGEST TO SAG AND OTHERS THAY THEY WOULD BE WELL ADVISED IN CIRCUMSTANCES TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO DEALING WITH RELATIVELY MODERATE TUC.  
DEGRACE

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